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P R O C E E D I N G S  
OF THE  
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

VOL. I. PART I.

1744 to 1837.

No. 1.

[The earliest records of the Society are comprised in a thin volume, bound in half Russia, and marked on the back 1768, the first page of which is occupied by the following letter from Franklin to Mr. Colden.]

NEW YORK, April 5, 1744.

SIR

Happening to be in this City about some particular Affairs, I have the Pleasure of receiving yours of the 28th past, here. And can now acquaint you, that the Society, as far as relates to Philadelphia, is actually formed, and has had several Meetings to mutual Satisfaction;—asoon [*sic*] as I get home, I shall send you a short Acct. of what has been done and proposed at these meetings. The Members

are Dr. Thomas Bond,	as	Physician
Mr. John Bartram	— as —	Botanist
Mr. Thomas Godfrey	— as —	Mathematician
Mr. Saml. Rhodes*	— as —	Mechanician
Mr. H <sup>m</sup> Parsons	— as —	Geographer
Dr. Phineas Bond	as	General Nat. Philosopher
Mr. Thos. Hopkinson	———	President
Mr. Wm. Coleman	———	Treasurer
B. F. _____		Secret <sup>y</sup>

To whom the following Members have since been added

\* Written thus by Franklin. "Rhoads" in the list.

New York, April 5. 1744

Sir,

Happening to be in this City about some particular Affairs, I have the Pleasure of receiving yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> past, here. And can now acquaint you, that the Society, as far as relates to Philadelphia, is actually formed, and has had several Meetings to mutual Satisfaction; — soon as I get home, I shall send you a flight of what has been done and propos'd at the first Meetings. The Members are

D<sup>r</sup> Thomas Bond, as Physician  
 M<sup>r</sup> John Bartram as Botanist  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Godfrey as Mathematician  
 M<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Rhodes as Mechanician  
 M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Tasker as Geographer  
 D<sup>r</sup> Phineas Bond as General Nat. Philosopher  
 M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Hopkinson — President,  
 M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Coleman — Treasurer.  
 R<sup>h</sup> ———— Secy<sup>t</sup>

To whom the following Members have since been added viz. M<sup>r</sup> Alexander of New York. M<sup>r</sup> Thomas (R<sup>h</sup> Justice of the Jerseys) M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Secretary of D<sup>r</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> John Pace of Trenton and M<sup>r</sup> Martyn of the same Place. — M<sup>r</sup> Nicholls tells me of several other Gentlemen of this City that incline to encourage the thing. — And there are a Number of others in Virginia Maryland, Carolina, and the New England Colonies for who we expect to join us, soon as they are acquainted that the Society has begun to form itself. I am, Sir, with much Respect

Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Cadwallader Colden Esq<sup>r</sup>

B<sup>e</sup> Franklin

viz. M<sup>r</sup>. Alexander of New York. M<sup>r</sup>. Morris (Ch. Justice of the Jerseys). M<sup>r</sup>. Home Secretary of D<sup>o</sup>. Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Coxe of Trenton, and M<sup>r</sup>. Martyn of the same Place.—M<sup>r</sup>. Nicholls tells me of several other Gentlemen of this City that incline to encourage the Thing.—And there are a Number of others in Virginia, Maryland, Carolina, and the New England Colonies who we expect to join us, assoon [*sic*] as they are acquainted that the Society has begun to form itself. I am, Sir, with much respect

Your most hum<sup>e</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

B. FRANKLIN.

The Hon<sup>e</sup> Cadwallader Colden, Esq.

[Twenty-four blank pages of a more modern paper are here bound in. Then sidewise is written the following, evidently an endorsement on the back of a foolscap document, folded once.]

ORIGINAL MINUTES  
&  
~~First~~\* CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE “AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY;”  
Held at Philadelphia for Promoting  
Useful Knowledge—

[The last two lines carefully erased; and under them, in a different and later handwriting, four lines, thus:]

One of the component Societies of  
the “American Philosophical  
Society held at Philadelphia  
for promoting Use [*sic*] Knowledge.”

[Under all, but written transversely and of a later date:]

*From January 19. 1768—to Dec. 20. 1768.*

[\* The word *first* has been crossed out.]

[The leaf is mounted so as to show the following title in the old handwriting of the former one.]

MINUTE BOOK  
OF THE  
AMERICAN  
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY  
*From January 1768.*

[Then on two pages, facing each other, and in two columns of names on each page, four columns in all]

LIST OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

<i>When chosen</i>	<i>Names</i>
<div> <div>Old members under the Original Plan, begun 1743,</div> <div>{</div> </div>	Benjamin Franklin Esq <sup>r</sup> , LL.D.
	William Coleman Esq <sup>r</sup>
	M <sup>r</sup> . John Bartram
	D <sup>r</sup> . Thos. Bond
	D <sup>r</sup> . Phineas Bond
	Samuel Rhoads. Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Rev <sup>d</sup> D <sup>r</sup> . Fra. Alison
Nov <sup>r</sup> 1767	D <sup>r</sup> . Will <sup>m</sup> Shippen
	D <sup>r</sup> . Will <sup>m</sup> Shippen Jr
Declines	D <sup>r</sup> . Cadwalader [ <i>sic</i> ] Evans
	M <sup>r</sup> . John Lukens, Surveyor General
1768	M <sup>r</sup> . Philip Syng
Jan'y 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev <sup>d</sup> D <sup>r</sup> . Will <sup>m</sup> Smith
	George Bryan Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Rev <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> . John Ewing
	Edw <sup>d</sup> Shippen jun <sup>r</sup> Esq <sup>r</sup>
19 <sup>th</sup>	M <sup>r</sup> . David Rittenhouse
	M <sup>r</sup> . Hugh Roberts
	M <sup>r</sup> . Israel Pemberton
	James Tilghman Esq <sup>r</sup>
	W <sup>m</sup> Logan Esq <sup>r</sup>

Joseph Shippen jun<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>Joseph Galloway Esq<sup>r</sup>Tho<sup>s</sup> Willing Esq<sup>r</sup>Benjamin Chew Esq<sup>r</sup>D<sup>r</sup>. Tho<sup>s</sup> CadwaladerD<sup>r</sup>. Adam KuhnD<sup>r</sup>. John RedmanM<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Pryor\*D<sup>r</sup>. Hugh Williamson†John Dickinson Esq<sup>r</sup>Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Penn Esq<sup>r</sup> } PatronHon<sup>ble</sup> James Hamilton Esq<sup>r</sup> } Presid<sup>t</sup> Feb'y 9<sup>th</sup>Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Allen Esq<sup>r</sup>

---

26<sup>th</sup> Lyn Ford Lardner

Joseph Richardson

Richard Penn

John Ross

John Allen

Andrew Allen

James Allen

Francis Hopkinson

M<sup>r</sup>. Ebenezer KinnersleyM<sup>r</sup>. Thomas CoombsD<sup>r</sup>. Charles MooreM<sup>r</sup>. John ReynellM<sup>r</sup>. Jonathan SmithAlexander Stedman Esq<sup>r</sup>

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*Corresponding members in different Provinces.*1743 Hon<sup>ble</sup> Cadwalader Colden, New York1768 Daniel Dulancey [*sic*] Esq<sup>r</sup> Ma . . . . . ‡Jany. 26<sup>th</sup> } D<sup>r</sup>. Garden, South Carol . . . . .D<sup>r</sup>. Lee, VirginiaM<sup>r</sup>. Winthrop, Massac . . . . .D<sup>r</sup>. Styles, Connecticu . . . . .

\* Obliterated, nearly, at the bottom of the page, and re-written in the column of dates in other and later handwriting.

† Not in the column; but inserted in small hand in the column of dates.

‡ Paper torn off before pasting to bind.

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March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Edward Duffield
	Samuel Mifflin Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. David Hall, Printer
	Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr. Tho <sup>s</sup> Barton
	John Kidd Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. Robert Smith, Architect
	Mr. Thomas Smith
	Tho <sup>s</sup> — Barnsley Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. Thomas Bond
	His Excellency W <sup>m</sup> Franklin Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. W <sup>m</sup> West
	Mr. Robert Proud
	Joseph Fox Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. James Dickinson
	Mr. John Rhea
	Isaac Jones Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. Rob <sup>t</sup> Strettel Jones
	Mr. Stephen Watts
	Mr. Samuel Caldwell
	Edw <sup>d</sup> Shippen Esq <sup>r</sup> of Lancaster
	Tho <sup>s</sup> McKean Esq <sup>r</sup> of Newcastle
	Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr. Richard Peters
	Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr. Jacob Duchè
	John Foxcroft Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. John Sellers, Surveyor
	D <sup>r</sup> . Thomas Græme
	D <sup>r</sup> . John Kearsley
	Mr. Sam <sup>l</sup> Purviance jun <sup>r</sup>
22 <sup>d</sup>	* Mr. Oswell Eve
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr. Harding
	Mr. Tho <sup>s</sup> Potts
	Mr. James Wright
	Alex <sup>r</sup> Wilcox Esq <sup>r</sup>
	Mr. Tho <sup>s</sup> Bradford
	James Biddle Esq <sup>r</sup>

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\* Captain Oswell Eve in the List, published in 1880.

\*Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Bacon  
 Charles Reade Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 John Gibson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 W<sup>m</sup> Smith  
 W<sup>m</sup> Livingston  
 John Morin Scot

} Esq<sup>rs</sup> of New York

Richard Stockton  
 Wm Peartree Smith  
 John Smith  
 Samuel Smith  
 Joseph Reade

} Esq<sup>rs</sup> of New Jersey

Richard Hockley Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. James Davidson

---

Aug<sup>t</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mr. Antill of New Jersey  
 Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Rumsey  
 †Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Holiday  
 Mr. John Davis  
 Dr. Edw<sup>d</sup> Holyoke of Massachusetts  
 Dr. Anderson of Maryland  
 Dr. Benjamin Gule of Connecticut  
 ‡Dr. Sandford of Barbadoes  
 Dr. Warner of Antigua

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Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. John Denormandie of Bristol  
 Joseph Kirkbride Esq<sup>r</sup> Bucks Cy.  
 Dr. P. Burgius, Prof. Nat. Hist. Stockholm  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Ch. Magnus Wrangel  
 Christian M<sup>c</sup>Gee LL.D. of Heidelberg  
 Dr. Cullen of Edinburgh  
 Monsieur Buffon at Paris  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Fred. Farmer, Philad<sup>a</sup>

[After two blank pages, on which the numbers continue, 4 and 5, commence the]

\* Erased & marked "dead"

† This name is later given as Henry Holiday, on May 18, 1768.

‡ This name is given later, on August 16, 1768, as Sandford.